BANSAL 2-9

<u>What is claimed is</u>:

1   1. A method for managing a scheduling system, comprising the steps of:

2   receiving information about an appointment from a user;

3   receiving information about an attendee associated with the appointment, including

4   attendee notification information;

5   determining meeting status information; and

6   automatically generating an attendee notification message using the attendee notification

7   information based on the meeting status information.

    2. The method of claim 1, wherein the meeting status information indicates if the user

will be late for the appointment, said step of automatically generating an attendee notification

message is performed when the meeting status indication information indicates that the user will

be late for the appointment.

1   3. The method of claim 2, wherein the attendee notification information is a telephone

2   number and said step of generating is performed by generating an audio message.

1   4. The method of claim 2, wherein the attendee notification information is an electronic

2   mail address and said step of generating is performed by generating an electronic mail message.

1   5. The method of claim 2, wherein said step of determining is based on information

2   received from a computer through a communication network.

1   6. The method of claim 2, wherein said step of determining is based on information

2   received from a telephone through a communication network.

1   7. The method of claim 2, wherein said step of determining is based on information

2   received from a wireless device through a communications network.

1   8. The method of claim 2, wherein the information about the appointment includes

2   appointment time information and appointment location information, and wherein said step of

3   determining comprises:

4   receiving user location information; and

5   deciding if the user will be late for the appointment based on the appointment time

6   information, the appointment location information, the user location information and a time

7   associated with the user location information.

1   9. The method of claim 8, wherein said step of deciding comprises:

2   calculating a travel distance based on the appointment location information and the user

3   location information;

4   calculating a time of arrival based on the time associated with the user location

5   information, the travel distance and a travel velocity; and

6   comparing the calculated time of arrival with the appointment time information.

1   10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

2   receiving map information from a mapping database; and

3   adjusting the travel distance based on the appointment location information, the user

4   location information, and the map information.

1   11. The method claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

2   receiving environment information; and

3   adjusting the travel velocity based on the environment information.

1   12. The method of claim 5 wherein said steps of receiving can be performed from

2   multiple access devices.

1   13. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

2   sending the attendee notification message to the attendee.

1   14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of:

2   receiving an attendee response from the attendee.

1   15. The method of claim 9, wherein said step of comparing is performed by comparing

2   the calculated time of arrival with the appointment time information and a predetermined fixed

3   period of time.

1   16. A scheduling system, comprising:

2   a scheduler database for storing information about an appointment and information about

3   an attendee associated with the appointment, including attendee notification information; and

4   a scheduling unit coupled to said scheduler database and configured to determine if a user

5   will be late for the appointment, said scheduling unit being further configured to send an attendee

6   notification message to the attendee using the attendee notification information when the user

7   will be late for the appointment.

        17. An apparatus to manage a scheduling system, comprising:

2   means for receiving information about an appointment from a user;

3   means for receiving information about an attendee associated with the appointment,

4   including attendee notification information;

5   means for determining if the user will be late for the appointment; and

6   means for sending an attendee notification message to the attendee using the attendee

7   notification information when the user will be late for the appointment.

1   18. An article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable medium having stored

2   thereon instructions adapted to be executed by a processor, the instructions which, when

3   executed, define a series of steps to manage a scheduling system, said steps comprising:

4   receiving information about an appointment from a user;

5   receiving information about an attendee associated with the appointment, including

6   attendee notification information;

7   determining if the user will be late for the appointment; and

8   sending an attendee notification message to the attendee using the attendee notification

9   information when the user will be late for the appointment.

19. A method for managing a scheduling system, comprising the steps of:

    receiving information about an appointment, including appointment time information and

appointment location information, from a user;

    receiving user location information; and

5   determining if the user will be late for the appointment based on the user location

6   information, the appointment location information, the appointment time information and a time

7   associated with the user location information.

1   20. The method of claim 19, wherein said step of determining comprises the steps of:

2   calculating a travel distance between the appointment location and the user location based

3   on the appointment location information and the user location information;

4   calculating a time of arrival based on the time associated with the user location

5   information, the travel distance and a travel velocity; and

6   comparing the calculated time of arrival with the appointment time information.

1   21. The method of claim 19, wherein the user location information is generated by a

2   global positioning satellite receiver.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein the user location information is calculated from an

automatic number identification number.

23. The method of claim 19, wherein the user location information is received through a

communication network.

24. The method of claim 20, further comprising the steps of:

2   receiving map information from a mapping database; and

3   adjusting the travel distance based on the appointment location information, the user

4   location information, and the map information.

1   25. The method claim 20, further comprising the steps of:

2   receiving environment information; and

3   adjusting the travel velocity based on the environment information.

1   26. The method of claim 25, wherein the environment information is weather

2   information.

1   27. The method of claim 25, wherein the environment information is traffic information.

1   28. The method of claim 25, wherein the environment information is airline information.

1   29. A scheduling system, comprising:

2   a scheduler database for storing information about an appointment, including

3   appointment time information and appointment location information;

4   a location determination unit configured to output user location information; and

5   a scheduling unit coupled to said scheduler database and said location determination unit,

6   said scheduling unit being configured to determine if a user will be late for the appointment

7   based on the user location information, the appointment location information, the appointment

8   time information and a time associated with the user location information.

1   30. An apparatus to manage a scheduling system, comprising:

2   means for receiving information about an appointment, including appointment time

3   information and appointment location information, from a user;

4   means for receiving user location information; and

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5   means for determining if the user will be late for the appointment based on the user

6   location information, the appointment location information, the appointment time information

7   and a time associated with the user location information.

1   31. An article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable medium having stored

2   thereon instructions adapted to be executed by a processor, the instructions which, when

3   executed, define a series of steps to manage a scheduling system, said steps comprising:

4   receiving information about an appointment, including appointment time information and

5   appointment location information, from a user;

6   receiving user location information; and

7   determining if the user will be late for the appointment based on the user location

8   information, the appointment location information, the appointment time information and a time

9   associated with the user location information.

1   32. A method for managing a scheduling system, comprising the steps of:

2   determining meeting status information based on information about an appointment and

3   information about a user; and

4   automatically generating an attendee notification message, using stored attendee

5   notification information, based on the meeting status information.